

# THE PLANET

SATURDAY, Nov. 16, 1889

possibility." After thoroughly preparing himself for the journey Mr. Mitchell secured the blooded mare of Mr. B. F. Turner and his light buggy. Dr. R. E. Jones' carriage-boy, Elijah went to do the driving. Although the mare was slightly lame Mr. Turner did not hesitate to offer her to the editor for such a purpose. At 8:38 he left Manchester by the Petersburg Turn-pike. The moon was shining through a rift of clouds. During the entire drive to Sheriff Gill's house a distance of 23 miles, not a living soul was seen on the road.

At 11 o'clock over a rough road Mr. Mitchell drove into Chesterfield C. H. The jailer, Mr. Cheatham was aroused. Without stating his mission, Mr. Mitchell enquired the way to the Sheriff's house. He was told he lived seven miles away near Fendley's station on the Brighthope R. R. Thanking him, they started once more on their journey. After driving about six miles, a white gentleman was aroused. He came out just as he got out of bed, and standing in the cool air patiently told them direction to the Sheriff's house—a remarkable example of a Virginian's courtesy. At 12:10 J. M. Mr. Mitchell and Elijah drove into Sheriff W. C. Gill's yard. Arousing him, he hastily dressed and came out. The Editor made his mission known, handing him the official document and told him they desired Simon brought at once to Richmond. "It's a long drive," said he. "I sat up until 11 o'clock waiting. I'll go in and get ready." He came out and hitched up his two horse team. "Take your mare and put her in my stable. I'll get some corn for her. I'll go over to Duncie's and get his wagon." He returned in about an hour, and stated that Mr. John A. Duncie who was to accompany him to Richmond would be over in a little while. Said he, "Public sentiment changed mightily concerning that boy. I know white men who were in favor of hanging him, that now are in favor of a commutation and some others go as far as to say he can't be acquitted. I am sorry I can't give you better accommodations," said he, "but my family have retired." Soon

THE SOUND OF HORSES' HOOF were heard and Mr. Duncie appeared. At about 2:30 A. M., the party left for Chesterfield, C. H. Arriving there the Sheriff sent Mr. Mitchell to arouse the jailer, and tell him to bring the keys to Walker's cell. Mr. S. P. Cheatham appeared. The guard left a match. Mr. Mitchell went up. "I have just told Simon," said he that his sentence has been commuted. Simon, do you know who this man is?" "Yes, sir," came from the dark recesses of the cell. "I recognized his voice." "What is my name?" "Mr. Mitchell," was the reply. "I am a thousand times obliged for what you all done for me." "It's a big difference between going to the penitentiary and hanging, isn't it?" "Yes, sir," he replied. The tone of the voice indicated deep emotion. His thanks were given as though his whole soul was in the task. Happiness could not express his joy. Later, the sheriff and the jailer came. The first iron door to the stone jail was unlocked, then the second. Mr. Cheatham had a lantern. There standing in the middle of the cell, with his left ankle chained to the stone floor stood Simon Walker. He was happy. Mr. Cheatham, the jailer stooped down, the key was inserted in the lock, a clicking sound was heard and the chain that manacled his limb fell off. The suit in which he was to be shrouded was brought. It was of a black material. He was dressed in this. "Put it on over your other clothes," said "Doctor" Hill, the colored attendant at the jail. This Simon quickly did. Once dressed, he stepped out of the cell virtually a free boy for the first time in 18 months and on the morning that he was to be executed, the enclosure in which the scaffold was built could be faintly seen in the distance.

Persons who saw him did not know he was a prisoner. The medical College authorities expected Walker's body last Saturday. His father thought he was hanged on the 8th inst. Editor Mitchell has never seen Walker's father. Lawyer Robinson's efforts were praise worthy to the last degree. His success in securing the signatures won the case and chronicles one of the most remarkable in the criminal annals of Virginia. Twice reprieved from the gallows on the day before and twice on the day he was to hang. "All's well that ends well."

One dollar a year will cover your doctor's bill if you take Simmons Liver Regulator.

Smoke El Matador cigar etc.

## Marriages.

DICKERSON—RANDOLPH—The marriage of Mrs Virginia Randolph and Mr Samuel Dickerson will take place Thursday, Nov. 21st at 9:30 P. M. at their residence 309 College St. No cards.

## HAWKINS—COLEMAN.

The marriage of Miss Carrie E. Coleman to Mr. Archie B. Hawkins took place last Wednesday, 13th inst at 9:00 P. M. at the First Baptist Church. This fine edifice was filled with a large crowd anxiously awaiting the hour of the ceremony. The following officiated:

Messrs. Ellis Braxton, John E. Taylor, R. W. Anderson, N. T. Payne, W. R. Coots, H. L. Smith, J. W. Randolph, and Wm. Truehart. Rev. James H. Holmes performed the ceremony.

The bride was attired in a brown traveling suit. The groom wore the conventional suit of black. Miss Naunie Osborne played the wedding march. Amidst the congratulations of many friends the happy couple left at 9:15 for Cincinnati, O.

## Deaths.

Cox—Died at 508 Webster St. November 13th, 1889, at 6 P. M. Mrs. Rebecca Cox in the 32nd year of her age.

WILLIAMS.—The funeral of Mr. Wm. D. Williams who died Monday after noon was preached at the Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church, (on which he was a member), Wednesday 13th inst. Rev. Daniel James officiated. Mr. Williams was a member of Olive Branch Lodge No. 56 of the Order of St. Luke, Mr. Williams was a good christian, and highly esteemed citizen.

HAMILTON.—Died Oct. 26th, '89 at Norwich Conn. at his home, 20 Fountain St. He leaves a widow, Mrs. Lizzie Hamilton.

## Personals and Briefs

The Rev. J. E. Rawlins, Presbyterian minister, has been appointed to this city by the Presbyterian Board of Missions for Freedmen, at Pittsburgh, Pa. to establish a Presbyterian church here among the colored people. Mr. Rawlins, comes strongly recommended by the Board. He has for several weeks been feeling his way among the people and will formally begin his work next Sabbath Nov. 17th, at the True Reformers' Hall on Second street, between Leigh and Jackson.

Preaching every Sunday: at 11 A. M. and 8 P. M. Sabbath School at 3 P. M.

Rev. T. P. Harris of Michaux, Va. called on us.

The pictures in this weeks issue were drawn by Editor Mitchell and will be found to be fair representation of the subjects illustrated.

The Anniversary exercises of the Young Men's Christian Association will be held at the First Baptist Church on the 4th. Sunday night in this month. A grand meeting A fine programme. All friends and lovers of the young men of our race, and all young men are urged to be present.

Smoke Havana Fruit Cigars.

There were two funerals at the First Baptist Church last Sunday morning. That of Mrs. William E. Burrell nee Jackson, and Mrs. Annita Const.

The funeral of Mrs. Burie I. Holmes was especially touching. Rev. James H. Holmes officiated. He preached a touching sermon and many were bathed in tears.

Mr. Burrell departed this life Nov. 8th. She was 30 years and 5 months old and was a member of Rising Mount Zion Baptist Church.

Mr. Zon No. 2. She leaves a mother, two brothers, a husband, child, and a host of friends to mourn their loss.

At 6:44 A. M., the party reached Manchester. Later they arrived in Richmond. The Sheriff brought Simon in the PLANET Office, and then he was taken to the Richmond Photograph Gallery and his photograph taken by the well-known Mr. J. C. Farley. Another style was taken by Mr. Lewis Frayser at the same gallery. The boy had never been to Richmond before. He was happy.

Executions in Virginia are private, so this enclosure, was built around the gallows.

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